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OUR PROPAGANDISTS ARE THE FALSE VOICE OF AMERICANS

By EUGENE W. CASTLE

FOR THE FIRST TIME in U.S. history, American propagandists abroad are as numerous as our accredited diplomatic representatives and their staffs, and actually occupy almost as much office space and housing facilities.

In fact, these self-styled psychological warriors bid fair to supersede our diplomatic corps in importance. Already, our diplomats are all too frequently obliged to follow the Washington directives and press releases of the United States Information Agency and its overseas bureaucrats before they can make important moves and carry out recognized and effective diplomatic procedures.

Unless, and until, the Congress calls a halt to this dangerous and unwarranted encroachment, our Ambassadors and Ministers may soon become robots, their every move masterminded by propagandists, not unlike the "party line" political commissars attached to the Soviet armies!

This startling development and trend was uncovered by the writer on a recent three-month tour of the Near East and Europe. Wherever he went he found U.S. propagandists, in their zeal to assert their importance, overshadowing our accredited diplomats. For the most part, these people are incompetents, incapable of holding down a cub reporter's job on a country weekly. Yet, these hordes of propagandists, supported by the American taxpayer, have been empowered to interpret American policy and to plot American strategy in local situations abroad!

Their efforts, as we shall see, have been grossly ineffectual.

The encroachment of the U.S.I.A. on the once-proud diplomatic corps was illustrated by a revealing photograph which appeared in a recent issue of the *New York Times*. It showed the entrance to the U.S. Information Agency offices in Copenhagen, Denmark. These offices are now located in the brand new million-dollar U.S. Embassy in the Danish capital. They include the U.S.I.A. press and film departments, an 8,000 volume library as well as a medium-sized auditorium. The Embassy also houses the organization employed by Harold Stassen's giveaway Foreign Operations Administration. All this, of course, was approved by our Congress on the premise that it would help us to win friends in Denmark.

Unfortunately, many Congressmen are influenced by what they believe to be their own political future. In the Senate, influential Republican Senators, especially those seeking re-election, are constantly reminded that politics comes before patriotism and that they must be "rubber stamps" for the one-world spenders who still dominate the White House.

WHY, IN COPENHAGEN, do we have to supplement our normal and proper diplomatic establishment with these costly and totally unnecessary "cultural embellishments"?

Curiously enough the new embassy building, in which U.S.I.A. is so lavishly housed, appears to be making us a laughing stock in Denmark. According to the dispatch in the *Times*, accompanying the photograph, "the Danish public is somewhat stunned by the new, modernistic building that was opened here in late May. The Danes are skeptical about the resistance of the light, glass structure to the damp, grim Danish winters."

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Actually, what the Danes resent, like most Europeans the writer interviewed on his recent trip, is the introduction of an architectural style completely out of keeping with their architecture and traditions.

In Paris, the writer ran into many Frenchmen who complain bitterly of still-to-be-completed housing projects along both sides of the Seine. This development involves nearly four hundred apartments, built and completely furnished by U.S. taxpayers, for the sole occupancy of government payrollers in Paris. These are dubbed by people in Paris "Ike's eyesores." The French quite properly feel that the decor is more in keeping with Las Vegas than their beloved capital which they regard as the most beautiful city in the world. These housing projects in outward appearance are hideous, actually resembling egg crates piled on top of each other!

Foreigners generally are overwhelmed with amazement at the lavish expenditures for the U.S.I.A. and other U.S. government excesses abroad. On his recent trip the writer talked with several hundred foreigners. They were from all walks of life, editors and opinion molders, businessmen, professional people, politicians and just plain citizens. Generally they agreed that the U.S.I.A. is not only a useless weapon in the fight against Communism but, more importantly, it is actually harmful to our best interests. Typical was the comment of a prominent Parisian businessman, René Allain, who has no particular love for Communists.

"The naked truth," he said, "is that all Europeans hate propaganda from any government, including their own. They totally disbelieve propaganda in any form because they have, and for many years, been propagandized to death. Your hordes of busybody press agents here in Paris and elsewhere throughout France, actually harm Franco-American relations, and more than you would believe."

Indeed, the memory of the infamous Herr Goebbels is still too vivid in the minds of all Europeans. And the continuing Communist barrage of "locally inspired" lies and deceit in France, Italy and elsewhere doesn't make them much happier.

Yet, our self-styled psychological warriors foolishly attempt to compete in this area. And with such little success that even the *United Nations World*, a magazine devoted to spreading one-world myths, largely at the expense of the long-suffering American taxpayer, was forced to admit it.

Writing from Paris, its editor, George Herald, declared that "all qualified observers agree that (the U.S.I.A.) cannot do the job" of competing with Soviet propaganda.

"These information agencies," Herald continued, "are needed to spread accurate news and refute Soviet lies about America, but their positive efforts, booklets, posters, movies, magazines — however beautifully done — are immediately discarded as what they are: *propaganda*. Europeans have been so overfed with this sort of material that its effect on them is negligible."

To put it bluntly, the U.S.I.A. is an utter fraud, kept alive by incompetent bureaucrats and their self-serving defenders who argue that since our Government is spending billions for defense it must spend hundreds of millions to "mold the minds of foreigners." Nothing could be farther from the truth. The billions are being spent to protect Americans. The hundreds of millions are being spent to harm us.

Now, as never before, scarcely a day passes without a stream of self-promoting press handouts spewing from U.S.I.A. headquarters in Washington, all attesting to its propaganda's effectiveness abroad. Many of these press releases are inaccurate and all too many of them are completely untrue. This leads to a question: How can Americans expect the U.S.I.A. to tell the truth about us to foreigners when its spokesmen cannot tell the truth to Americans?

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It must be conceded the U.S.I.A. gets a good press in several influential newspapers, particularly in Washington and New York. However, most foreign editors look upon the products of this agency with deep suspicion. These editors view the U.S.I.A. as just another government propaganda outfit, and an ineffectual one at that.

So ineffectual, in fact, that — at the height of the Communist-inspired furor in Europe last year about the atom spies, the Rosenbergs — the U.S.I.A. was completely unable to reply to the Communist mendacities about the spy case.

One Paris editor, Boris Souvarine, has reported his attempt to obtain material with which to refute Red lies about the Rosenbergs. Believe it or not, he was actually forced to visit the U.S.I.A.'s elaborate propaganda establishment in Paris where he found "information specialists" — three large buildings filled with them — and all of them unable even to advise him!

Little wonder then, that the French generally, including high prelates of the Catholic Church, were led to accept the Communist version of the Rosenberg case.

This is described by labor columnist Victor Riesel as "the worst propaganda defeat in our history." And the reason, Riesel added, is that many U.S. employees abroad "did not believe, or did not know, that the atom spies were guilty. Instead our information agency issued some very meager and inconclusive material. They did not say that the atom spies were guilty."

What's more, said Riesel, many of these employees "still believe Alger Hiss is innocent."

FEW AMERICANS REALIZE that nearly 70 per cent of the ten thousand U.S.I.A. propagandists are foreigners. It follows that these foreigners owe no allegiance at all to our country or what we stand for, yet, they speak for our government. No other nation on earth would tolerate such a dangerous situation.

Recently, Congressman Pat Hillings returned from Europe with the charge that many of our employees abroad spend more time running down the U.S. with "inspired" stories about "McCarthyism" than they do about boosting our country. A startling commentary, indeed, on the type of people employed in agencies such as the U.S.I.A.

Let's visit the Amerika Haus in Frankfurt, Germany, to see what kind of material some of these employees are providing to foreigners. A few weeks ago, in just one section of the library, an American visitor noted these book titles: *The Tragedy of the Chinese Revolution*, by Harold Isaacs; *A History of the Far East*, by Harold M. Vinacke; *Korea Today*, by George McCune; *Japan's Emergence as a Modern State*, by E. Herbert Norman; *Peking Diary*, by Derk Bodde; and *The Future of Japan*, by William Johnstone. The bulk of these books, on Oriental subjects, were by writers who were scarcely critical of the Chinese Communists. There were no books written by foes of Communism. And remember the cost of this U.S.I.A. "cultural center" is charged to the American people.

At the U.S.I.A. film center and theater on the main business street of Athens, the writer last February picked up catalogues, in both Greek and English, listing documentary film subjects being offered for showing in Greece. Here are a few of the titles: "Acheson's Speech," "President Truman's Address to the Congress," "Truman's Call Upon the Nations of the Free World to Arm for Peace," "President Truman's Inauguration," "President Truman Reports on Korea," "President Truman's United Nations Speech."

CURIOUSLY, although it has been rumored that General Eisenhower won the election in 1952, the U.S.I.A. in Greece apparently had not yet heard about it.

Someone should tell Ike, and in plain language, that we have no U.S.I.A. in Switzerland. Many millions of dollars could be saved for the American people by eliminating the U.S.I.A. in Greece,

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Spain, Turkey, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands. There is no Communist menace within these countries. Stopping propaganda to those who are our friends would actually aid our standing with the peoples of these countries. They would, at least, stop thinking that we are so afraid of the evil men in the Kremlin that we must share our fears with our friends.

Despite its long, lamentable and very costly record of continued failure and all too often indirect assistance to Communist agitators abroad, the United States Information Agency continues, year after year, to demand more and more millions from the Congress. Recently, when Propaganda Director Theodore C. Streibert appeared before a Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Pat McCarran (D., Nev.) sounded off thusly:

"I have been on this committee for twenty years and I have not seen any results from the money we have expended. I should like to see it now." "So would I," replied Mr. Streibert, "it would be very good to have a total measure of results. We just don't have it. We will never get it." Mr. Streibert, perhaps accidentally, gave the correct answer.

OUR PRESENT U.S. Information Agency will never be effective for Americans because those who operate the agency are too busy catering to the administration which happens to be in power. They are too busy "over-promoting" politicians in countries where there are no votes for them. Moreover, they are too busy attempting to enlarge their already too big and unmanageable global establishment for press agentry. Also, they are too busy trying to assume the duties and responsibilities of our accredited diplomats abroad. They therefore have no time to "pinpoint" a job of good press relations for Americans and to confine that effort within the countries and places where our government needs and should have such support.

Like the novice duck hunter, the U.S.I.A. descends upon the world scene loaded with the wrong kind of ammunition, and too many kinds of it. The U.S.I.A. shoots "wild" at the sight of the first pigeon crossing the horizon. Except in its own press releases for home and political consumption, the U.S.I.A. scores no "hits" for Americans.

For more than twenty years, and during the administrations of President Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower, the American people have been "conditioned" to accept government expenditures and deficits in the billions. Today, as in the past, the President and his chief spokesmen insist that only millions are spent for propaganda abroad and, in terms of government spending this is only a drop in the Atlantic Ocean. That is true, but what remains unsaid is that in terms of potential damage to our country and all of our citizens, the impact of the U.S.I.A. on most foreigners may, in the end, prove to be as dangerous as the force of a Texas tornado at the very height of its destructive fury.

Americans need good press relations in some foreign countries and places. There is only one legitimate and effective way to accomplish this. Abolish the U.S. Information Agency. In its place establish a small, expertly staffed news bureau run by experienced professional newspapermen. This bureau belongs *in* the Department of State because that department is, in reality, the only recognized voice of Americans to all foreign governments and peoples. When we stop being *propagandists* we can hope to begin influencing foreigners and extending our friendships abroad. (Actually, the times are too grim to wait for another election to do this.)

Eugene W. Castle: former newspaper reporter, newsreel editor, founder of Castle Films, world traveller and observer.

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HUMAN EVENTS

FRANK C. HANIGHEN, *Editor*

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Man of the Hour: Senator Knowland is definitely the man of the hour in the Nation's Capital today. Nothing for a long time has so stirred Washington as Knowland's vigorous stand on keeping Red China out of the UN. His threat — that he would resign as Majority Leader and stump the country for our withdrawal from the UN, if our Red enemy is admitted — is taken very seriously.

While the Senator from California has not filled his job as boss of the GOP in the Senate as adeptly as his great predecessor, Taft, he is regarded as a man of his word and passionately sincere in his resolution to carry out his warning. Already the "liberal" typewriter brigades are at work calling him "Senator from Formosa" and "chief of the China Lobby." There is little doubt as of today that Knowland has a big majority of the legislative body behind him on this issue.

However, cold-eyed observers here — even those who sympathize with Knowland's stand — wonder if "it's in the bag," that is, if in the long run he will keep the country aroused. They note that within 48 hours of his first utterance, he called for constituents to write letters to their members of Congress. If the volume of mail were tremendous, such a call would not be necessary. Observers concede that undoubtedly public sentiment is behind Knowland and that most of the people would like the U.S. to withdraw from the UN anyway. However, these observers remind us, the pro-America side of any issue here in recent decades has never effectively organized and mobilized public sentiment so that either President or Congress dared defy it.

They recall the tremendous support for MacArthur, when he was fired and returned to this country. But the Republican politicians and business and community leaders failed to get together, close ranks and create a nationwide organization to implement their sentiments. The old general, consequently, "faded away." If the pro-American leaders had even a fraction of the enterprise and determination of the internationalists, they would have taken command of the situation.

And — it is pointed out — Knowland's chances would appear better if, on the morrow of his eloquent utterance, the pro-Americans had come out with a "Committee for Saving the U.S. by Withdrawal from the UN," or some similar title. (Remember the internationalist "Committee to Save the U.S. by Aiding Britain" of 1940-41?) Unless some such energetic measures are taken, observers sadly say, contrary circumstances will develop. Members of Congress who now give lip service to Knowland will receive visits from internationalist members of the White House Palace Guard; some of these Congressmen are looking for patronage, some hope to be appointed by the White House to the bench, in return for submission to the Palace Guard on issues. They'll weaken — unless the people who elected them are sufficiently stirred to keep their representatives in Congress under constant pressure to support our withdrawal from the UN. The people want it, observers believe. That is not the question. The question is — do they want it badly enough?

A Plan for Defense: After the late war internationalists invented a dangerous legend to effectively and permanently tie the United States to the quarrels of Europe and Asia. The legend was that U.S. industry was completely dependent on critical materials from Europe, Asia and Africa both in peacetime and in war.

The Communists used this legend to encourage us to increase our dependence on foreign sources across the seas. The Communist strategy was to commit us as much as possible to those faraway deposits,

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on the supposition that if war came they could quickly cut off these minerals, thus leaving us deprived of vital war materials.

Our so-called allies in Europe also made good use of the legend to enrich themselves. Because we believed that our allies alone could provide our factories with critical materials, we went all out to cultivate their goodwill by making them gifts of billions of dollars.

Internationalists interested in snaring the United States in a world government used the legend to promote the idea that we must take the lead in bringing peace to the world because wars in Europe and Asia would imperil our prosperity by cutting off foreign sources of materials indispensable to American industry.

Many U.S. experts have known that the legend was false — that all the critical materials our industry needed could be found in abundance in the Western Hemisphere, sources of supply that could not be affected by wars across the oceans. And now a Senate sub-committee headed by Senator George Malone (R., Nev.) furnishes the facts that completely debunk the myth that our factories must be dependent on supplies of critical materials in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The Malone sub-committee conducted hearings over the past 10 months from coast to coast and examined more than 360 experts. It concentrated its inquiry on a total of 77 raw materials which are essential to the conduct of modern warfare and which we have acquired by imports from abroad. The committee found:

1. A highly placed official in our government, Harry Dexter White, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, who was later exposed as a Communist agent, gave great impetus to the idea that the U.S. must obtain its critical materials from Europe and Asia because of the scarcity of such materials in our part of the world. He particularly recommended that we give Russia a $10,000,000,000 credit to be repaid with critical materials.

2. Procurement policies of the government over the past quarter century have steadily enlarged the dependence of our factories on old-world sources of critical materials, because the economists furnishing the economic data for those policies had closed their eyes to Western Hemisphere sources.

3. The Western Hemisphere can be made completely self-sufficient in the production of all critical materials essential in war.

4. Reserves of critical materials in the United States itself have been grossly underestimated. Furthermore, only the surface has been scratched in determining the magnitude of such reserves. Thus less than 1% of the land area of the United States has been included in geological investigations; only 12.7% has been even geologically mapped; and only 31.1% topographically mapped by the U. S. Geological Survey, although the Survey started its mapping work in 1880.

5. Malone's report convincingly shows why the legend that the United States is definitely a "have-not" nation in respect to a considerable number of strategic raw materials is "one of the greatest frauds and hoaxes ever perpetrated on the American people."

United Fruit: The Capital buzzes with argument over the Department of Justice suit against the United Fruit Company (operating in Guatemala) on the ground of an alleged monopoly. Some editorial writers become enthusiastic over this move as a great victory in the psychological warfare field; saying it shows that the U. S. is not the backer of big corporations in Latin America and has no part in the United Fruit Company's complaints against the recent Communist government in Guatemala.

There's something odd about all this. On January 14, 1953, HUMAN EVENTS noted the following: "On January 9, the *Washington Post*, not usually given to criticizing Beedle (Smith) and his CIA, reported with horror that the organization had been interfering in the politics of several Caribbean republics. In the case of Guatemala, Beedle's 'hawkshaws' wanted to overthrow the government and blame it on the United Fruit Company. . . ."

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The Department of Justice action, whatever its merits, may make a favorable impression on some Latin Americans. But what sort of an impression does it make on U. S. investors who are daily urged and cajoled, by the U. S. authorities as well as Latin Americans, to invest in Latin America? And, according to current comment, the low standard of living in some republics south of the border, supposed to be the cause of Communist activities, results from lack of investment capital to lift that standard. How can one blame Wall Street if it becomes somewhat confused by all this and decides to stay at home?

Flanders: Senator Flanders of Vermont is receiving some of the treatment he has given Sen. McCarthy. A U.P. dispatch on June 22, reported that a Vermont industrialist said he will start a drive to recall Sen. Flanders because of his attack on Sen. McCarthy. Oscar A. Risford, head of an East Highgate, Vermont, manufacturing firm announced the drive saying "there are thousands who resent deeply as I do the atttempts that have been made to belittle and destroy Senator McCarthy's name and his efforts to do a great service for our country." Rixford who was a Flanders supporter in the past said he would pattern the drive after the recent "Joe Must Go" campaign in which a small town Wisconsin publisher sought to force a recall election. The latter publicity effort turned out to have thin support, and the Wisconsin publisher fled the state. But, one wonders, why does not the press — which overplayed the "Joe Must Go" movement — at least give some small mention of the Vermont manufacturer's movement?

And fighting publisher William Loeb, Jr., of the Manchester (New Hampshire) *Union Leader* (largest paper in that state) challenged Flanders to "practice what he preaches" and reveal more facts about his own business connections. Loeb in a wire to Flanders (reported in his paper on June 15) said: "You should answer the questions (1) whether or not the Jones and Lamson Machine Tool Company in your home town of Springfield, Vt., in which you are reputed to have a large interest, has in the past supplied machine tools to Soviet Russia; (2) whether or not your company is contemplating supplying more machine tools to the killers in the Kremlin; (3) you should answer the question whether this business connection with Soviet Russia has influenced your unspeakable attack on Senator McCarthy." Mr. Loeb's office says that Flanders has not answered these queries.

Elections: Some observers in Washington are doubtful that the GOP can hold the House or even the Senate in the fall elections. If defeat occurs, many here believe that the *New York Times* and the "liberal" press will proclaim the outcome as a rebuke to GOP members of Congress for failing to support the "liberal" program of the Eisenhower Administration. Already signs of this appear in the left wing press.

Actually, observers feel that any such setback would be the result of "me-too-ism" in the Administration and its servile followers. This view is shared by the Dunn Survey of Greenwich, Conn., which has scored a high average of accuracy in its election forecasts over many years. Election statistics, Dunn emphasizes, show that an anti-me-too attitude brings better results for GOP congressional candidates.

He says: "In every congressional election year, commencing in 1938, when Republican candidates were not handicapped by running on a ticket with a 'liberal' candidate for President, the congressional candidates won a larger percentage of the national vote than any Republican Presidential candidate won since 1936, except in 1952." And in 1946, when GOP candidates for Congress made the most clear cut campaign against New Deal programs, they won more seats in both Senate and House than in 1952.

In the House, Dunn points out, Republicans won 246 seats in 1946, only 221 in 1952. In the Senate Republicans won 51 seats in 1946; only 49 in 1952. On their own, Republican candidates for Congress won a working majority in the strongly anti-New Deal campaign of 1946; but they did not do so under Eisenhower leadership in 1952.

The Dunn Survey also punctured the myth that Ike's election was due to his capture of many voters from Democrats and Independents who had formerly voted Democratic. "The facts are to the contrary," says Dunn, pointing out that Stevenson won more votes than did the combination of Truman, Thurmond and Wallace in 1948 and ran only a small margin less than did the Roosevelt votes in 1940 and 1944. In all of the South and border states excepting two (Mississippi and Oklahoma), Stevenson won more votes in 1952 than the total cast for Truman, Thurmond and Wallace in 1948. Dunn concludes:

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"As Eisenhower's large vote, and election, did not come from Democrats and Independents who previously voted Democratic, only one sound conclusion remains. Millions of voters who were previously unwilling to vote for either the 'liberal' Democrat or 'liberal' Republican candidates for President, turned out to vote for Mr. Eisenhower with the expectation that his Administration would turn away from welfare-socialist programs. If the voters now believe the Administration is accepting and extending the New Deal's welfare-socialist programs, disappointment would cause many Eisenhower voters to remain away from the polls in November, resulting in the probable defeat for the Republican party in the congressional election."

Nationalism: "We must realize," says Herbert Hoover in a speech given in Chicago on June 24, "the vitality of a great spiritual force which we call 'nationalism.' The fuzzy minded intellectuals have sought to brand nationalism as a sin against mankind. They seem to think that infamy is attached to the word 'nationalist.' But that force in the world cannot be obscured by denunciation of it as greed or selfishness — as it sometimes is. The spirit of nationalism springs from the deepest of human emotions. It rises from the yearning of men to be free of foreign domination, to govern themselves. It springs from a thousand rills of race, of history, of sacrifice and pride in national achievement."

"Every nation," remarked the former President, "has laid its dead upon the altar of its country. These died with their national flag before their eyes and their national hymns upon their lips. The pride of race has swelled from their suffering and sacrifice. In our own country does not the word America stir something deeper within us than mere geography? Does not the suffering and the sacrifice of our forebears who fought for our independence flash in our minds with every mention of that word?"

The former President concludes his eulogy of nationalism: "And equally do these emotions flow wide and deep in all free nations. Within them and their religious faith is their spiritual strength. It sustains their resolution against aggression and domination. 'Nationalism' cannot be abandoned if civilization is to last among free men."

Education: Apparently taking their cue from a HUMAN EVENTS article, "A Solution for the Public School System" (Dec. 2, 1953), the Colorado Schools Protective Association, at a meeting in Colorado Springs last month, passed the following resolution: "Resolved, not to abolish public schools, but to remit part of the taxes that parents pay if they send their children to private or parochial schools." The group consists mostly of farmers and ranchers.

Between Covers: Rabbi Benjamin Schultz, one of the finest fighters against Communism, anti-anti-Communism and anti-McCarthyism in the country dissects the business of smearing conservatives with the "anti-semitic" label, traces it back to the Communists whose basic idea is "Red-hunting is anti- semitism." In the July *American Mercury*.

● Ralph de Toledano in the *American Legion Magazine* (May) not only exposes the American Civil Liberties Union, but *en passant* shows how Edward R. Murrow slanted the news in favor of the ACLU and against the Legion in the recent Union controversy in Indiana.

● William F. Buckley, Jr., turns from his current theme McCarthy (*McCarthy And His Enemies*, by Buckley and Bozell is on the current best-seller list) to his former interest, education, (*God and Man at Yale*, best-selling book in 1951), in an article in *The Freeman*, June 14, entitled "Does Just Any College Qualify?"

● Increasing demands for an American nationalistic policy abroad has brought revived interest in General William H. Wilbur's recent book, *Guide Posts to the Future* (Henry Regnery Company), reviewed in HUMAN EVENTS, June 2.

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